



Virginia Commission on Youth

517B General Assembly Building - Richmond, Virginia 23219-0406
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES OMBUDSMAN

Senator Harry Blevins, Chairman, announces that the Commission on Youth will hold two public hearings on establishing the Office of Children's Services Ombudsman in Virginia. The Commission invites all individuals who desire to testify about creating an Office of Children's Services Ombudsman and/or issues and options related to establishing such an office to attend the following public hearings:

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2006
11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**CITY OF NORFOLK COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL BUILDING, 11TH FLOOR
810 UNION STREET
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

The Public Hearing location is accessible. Parking is free for the first 45 minutes in the garage adjacent to the City Hall Building during regular business hours. There may be a charge incurred for parking after the first 45 minutes.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006
11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

**CITY OF ROANOKE COUNCIL CHAMBER
NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR
215 CHURCH AVENUE, S. W.
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA**

The Public Hearing location is accessible. Parking is available in the parking garage adjacent to the Municipal Building. There is a fee for parking in this garage.

All persons who desire to speak before the Commission on this issue are invited to attend the public hearings. All individuals attending either of the public hearings are asked to register with the Commission at least five days prior to that public hearing. All speakers are requested to limit their remarks to five minutes; however, the Chairman reserves the right to further limit the time to accommodate all persons who wish to address the Commission. Individuals requiring interpreter services or other special accommodations should contact the Commission at least seven days prior to the public hearing. All speakers are requested to submit three copies of their prepared statement at the public hearing. Persons who would like to address the Commission, but who are unable to register in advance, may register to speak at the door 30 minutes prior to the public hearing. Persons who would like to address the Commission, but who are unable to attend the public hearing, may mail or fax written comments to the Commission. Written comments may also be submitted by e-mail to mjackson@leg.state.va.us.

The Office of Children's Services Ombudsman would be an office external to current child-serving agencies. This office would receive and hear complaints in regards to children's services in Virginia and would conduct independent investigations and reviews of citizens' complaints to ensure the health, safety and welfare of children. Additional information on the study to establish the Office of Children's Services Ombudsman can be found at <http://coy.state.va.us> or by contacting the Commission at 804-371-2481.

The Commission is a bi-partisan, standing legislative commission of the Virginia General Assembly. It is comprised of twelve members: six Delegates, three Senators and three citizens appointed by the Governor. The *Code of Virginia* directs the Commission to "... study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth's youth and their families."